The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor and industry, the labor-legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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"If principle is good for anything, it is worth living up to."—Franklin.

WHOLE NO. 1354 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1937 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 27, NO. 13

Lehman Holds Federal Amendment Is Only Remedy for Child Labor

New York Governor Tells Columbia University President That State Legislation Patterned After Principle of Federal Prison Goods Law Is Valueless to Protect Children from Exploitation.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Early this year the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the Ashurst-Sumners Act which forbids the transportation of prison-made goods into any State whose laws prohibit their sale within its boundaries.

Immediately following this decision a number of persons started a movement in favor of the enactment of a Federal law prohibiting the transportation of child labor products. The movement is designed to use the authority to regulate the labor of children under 18 years of age. Uniform State child labor laws were also suggested by this group as providing adequate protection for children.

Among the leaders of this movement was Dr. Nicholas Butler, president of Columbia University, New York City, and chairman of the New York State Committee Opposing Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment. Dr. Butler was joined by a number of individuals and groups well-known for their opposition to adequate Federal legislation designed to safeguard the children of the United States from unscrupulous exploitation by employers whose greed for profits deadens their sense of humanity and causes them to use boys and girls forced into the slavery of factory work by economic conditions and lack of protective legislation.

Dr. Butler sent one of these letters to Governor Lehman of New York, who immediately answered the reactionary communication by a letter which declared and it proved that any attempt to control child labor through an amendment to the Federal Constitution would be unsound and impracticable.

Governor Lehman said experience had convinced him that it would be impossible to induce forty-eight States to agree on legislation affecting so profoundly their social and economic life. He declared that any attempt to control child labor through interstate commerce action would lead to grave abuses and far-reaching stagnation of trade.

In his letter to Dr. Butler, Governor Lehman wrote:

"May I say to you at the outset that I, of course, appreciate and respect the sincerity of your opposition. I am, however, in entire disagreement with your point of view.

"Ratification of the child labor amendment is in no way a question of political measure. I believe that the great majority of the people of the United States would be more concerned with the opinion offered by employers in these line progressive or less industrialized States who do not have labor laws meeting the high standards built up in New York State over many years.

"I am replying at length to your letter largely because I sets forth a view of those ralsed not only by you but other opponents of the proposed amendment. In the case of some of these I think sincerely than you in their opposition it is advanced. I believe, for the purpose of confusing the minds of our citizens.

"You suggest that the abuses of child labor should be corrected:

"(1)—Through the adoption by the several States of a uniform child labor act; or

"2)—By legislation under the terms of the interstate commerce clause of the Federal Constitution.

"May I say to you, with all possible respect for the sincerity of your suggestion, I am convinced that neither course would be practicable nor effective.

Fallacy of Uniform State Laws Urged

"(1)—I do not know whether you have ever had any direct experience in trying to secure the enactment by each of several States of the Union of uniform legislation affecting the social or economic life of our nation.

"During the past eight years I have frequently had that experience and as a result of it I can state that I have found that it is substantially impossible to secure the adoption by the forty-eight States of the Union of any uniform act. In spite of ceaseless effort that has been made for years, little or any progress has been made in securing action in a common cause even among small groups of States geographically contiguous or having similar social or economic interests. I am afraid that a uniform Child Labor Law was drafted and submitted to the States more than twenty-five years ago and that practically no progress has been made in its adoption.

Commerce Ban Impracticable

"(2)—I believe that any one familiar with the administration of the law will agree with me that your suggestion that child labor can be controlled through a Federal act prohibiting shipment of the products of child labor into a State whose own laws prohibit the manufacture or sale of such goods is absolutely impracticable. Such a law could not be administered. Any attempt to carry it out would lead to abuses and to a far-reaching stagnation of trade.

"Take, for example, an article of commerce as simple as a suit of man's clothes bought for sale within this State. It might be fabricated in Illinois. The woolen goods might be bought by the Illinois clothing manufacturer from a factory in Pennsylvania. The silk lining might be made in New Jersey, the cotton lining in North Carolina, the thread in Georgia, the buttons in Indiana. Into the manufacture of such one of these component parts many processes of labor, including carding, spinning, dyeing, printing stamping.

Enforcement Would Be Impossible

"It is fair to assume that in the manufacture of so simple an article as mentioned above there still there exist scores of separate manufacturing operations which may have been carried on in many plants situated in possibly a dozen different States.

"In the production of many articles the manufacturing source will at the borders of our own State we could not possibly administer such a law without causing delay and dislocation in interstate commerce that would be disastrous and inevitably cause a breakdown in the free passage of goods between States.

"I do not believe that anyone who has had any practical experience as one who is familiar with the administration of such laws or the flow of commerce between our States could possibly seriously contend that it would be practicable or sound to attempt to control child labor in the manner outlined by you.

"I am afraid that the only contention is to have minimum standards applicable to the products of the entire. That can be achieved only through the Federal child labor amendment."

Muskegon Machinists Claim Firm Fired Union Official

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Organized machinists in Muskegon Heights, Mich. declared a strike against the Brickner-Kropf plant, following the alleged discriminatory discharge of a union officer. The company, a jobbing concern manufacturing tools and dyes, employs about 75 men, a large majority of whom belong to the Machinists' local union affiliated with the International Association of Machinists. In addition to discriminating against the union official or sound to attempt to control child labor in the manner outlined by you.

"It is the contention of the unions that the company refused to pay overtime for Saturday afternoons and double time for Sunday.

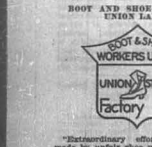
Buy Boot and Shoe Workers' Union Labor Footwear Exclusively, Ornburn Urges

Union Label Trades Department Secretary Warns Against Scheme of Unfair Shoe Manufacturers to Deceive Public With Fake Labels.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—"The Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor is in accordance with a resolution adopted at its last convention, urges all members of labor unions and their families, friends and their friends, to buy only those shoes which display the union label shield of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union," J. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, declared in a statement stressing the fact that the label "is the only approved union label officially recognized by the American Federation of Labor for all kinds of footwear."

BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS' UNION LABEL



"Extraordinary efforts have been made by unfair shoe manufacturers to deceive the consuming public," Mr. Ornburn said. "The words 'Union Made' and fake prints of unauthorized labels have been stamped in shoes but they are not made by members of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union and should not be purchased by members of organized labor and their friends.

"There is an increased demand for shoes bearing the genuine Union Label of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. The Union Label Trades Department urges the withdrawal of all patronage from those that fail to buy shoes from manufacturers who display it."

Mr. Ornburn appealed to all officers and members of the affiliated national and international labor unions of the American Federation of Labor, the Railway Labor Unions, the International Seamen's Union Label League, the local Union Label Leagues, the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor, City Central Bodies, local labor unions and their friends to purchase exclusively those that display the Union Label of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union.

NEW MEXICO LABOR FIGHTS LOW WAGES ON ROAD WORK

Albuquerque, New Mexico. (AFLNS).—Declaring that the wages paid highway workers employed on various contracts, work and highway projects in New Mexico submitted by J. A. Elliott, district engineer, of the Bureau of Public Roads, U. S. Department of Agriculture, were in some cases 40 per cent lower than the prevailing scales of various local unions of Albuquerque, the New Mexico Building Trades Association submitted the union scales prescribed by the various building crafts with the request that they be adopted.

Farm Union Officer Favors Union Label

Mutual Purchase of Union Made Products by Organized Workers and Organized Farmers Will End Child Labor and Sweatshops, Says W. C. Irby of Farmers' National Union Committee.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The great progress in economic justice which would result from nation wide cooperation between the organized labor and organized farmers during the union-labeled products of each group was emphasized by W. C. Irby, member of the National Committee of the Farmers' Union in an recent radio address over the National Broadcasting Company's network.

Pointing out that this principle is already effective in an understanding between his organization and the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Irby declared that it's general application would practically drive low labor standard products out of existence.

"When I bought this hat, I looked inside the crown to find the label. I also looked in the pockets of the coat, vest, pants, in the shoes, on the socks, for the union label.

"Why? Because those little union labels tell me that I could and would wear the articles to which they were attached with the knowledge that the men and women who made them had been treated as human beings and not as beasts of burden by the factories that sold them to merchants.

"It was doing my Christian duty of helping those men and women to bear their fair share of the nation's progress and protecting themselves and families.

More Effective Than Bullets

"When the union workers look for and demand the stamp of fair union labor on the plow, hoe and rake) upon products, they are helping the farmers to bear their great burden of supporting and protecting their workers.

"That little union label is more powerful than bullets in protection of the rights of workers.

"Let farm and city men, women and children demand the union label. There would then be no one else to buy and the industrial combination and overlords would call for organizers to show their people how to organize, instead of using armed gunmen, blackjacks and rope fairs to persecute, ambush and assassinate union men and women, as was done in every section of this country.

Mutual Interest of All Workers

"Government reports show, that when the wage income of the farmer amounts to about $10,000,000,000 a year, the income of labor is around $10,000,000,000 a year. When income of labor dropped to about $5,000,000,000 a year, income of farmers dropped to around $2,000,000,000 a year. As income of city workers rose or fell in proportion, so did that of farmers rise or fall. The prosperity of farmers and city workers must help each other in order to be permanent.

"So the National Farmers' Union and the American Federation of Labor have approved and confirmed the declaration of their committees, whereby members of the labor unions agree to buy only farm union products only from merchants that will display the union label and shop card and that members of the farm unions would purchase union made goods only from merchants who display the union label, shop card or button.

Label Would Ban Cheap Foreign Goods

"The importance and possibilities for good to be done by this action is beyond the power of our imagination. We cannot, it means that when the members of the Farmers' Union become numerous enough to supply the wool and cotton, the Farmers' Union label (the plow, hoe and rake) is stamped on the bale to show that the farm family that produced the wool or cotton had received a fair price for it. In a letter to the farmers the workers in our cities would tell their merchants that if the bolts of cloth, or the fabrics, basket of fruit, eggs or other products did not contain the Farm Union label, they would refuse to buy it and let it rot on their shelves.

"It means that the open shop sweatshop and open-shop will be driven forever from America and the door closed to cheap foreign labor products."

Green Supports Newspaper Guild in Union Shop Demand for Scripps-Howard Alliance

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Complete agreement with the demand of the American Newspaper Guild for the establishment of the "closed shop" in the newspapers published by the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance was announced by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter to the president of the Washington Local of the Newspaper Guild, in New York City.

"Please be assured," Mr. Green said, "that the American Federation of Labor is deeply interested in the negotiations which the representatives of the Newspaper Guild are carrying on with the management of the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance. I earnestly hope successful efforts will attend your efforts to secure a collective bargaining agreement with the management of these publications.

"The American Federation of Labor is in thorough accord with the principle which you and your associates representing the Newspaper Guild made to the management of the Scripps-Howard Alliance, that as a basis for the recognition and establishment of the Guild Shop. Because of the position which the editors of the Scripps-Howard newspapers have assumed in favor of collective bargaining and in support of the establishment of contractual relationships between employers and employes, it seems inconceivable that the management of these publications would resist the efforts of the representatives of the Newspaper Guild to establish the Guild shop.

"I wired to you and to the Newspaper Guild full and complete assurance of the support of the American Federation of Labor in all efforts you may put forth to require the management of the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance to agree to your reasonable demand.

"I will gladly call upon city central bodies and state federations of labor to rally to your support and to give to your Newspaper Guild a full measure of cooperation and assistance. These city central bodies and state federations of labor will be instructed to stand by you and to render all help possible.

"I am pleased to make this reply in response to inquiries submitted as to the attitude of the American Federation of Labor toward your Newspaper Guild in a conflict which has arisen between it and the management of the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance."

Texas Labor Endorses State Public Welfare Board Bill

Austin, Texas. (AFLNS).—"The Texas Federation of Labor is actively supporting a bill for the creation of a State Board of Public Welfare which will take over the administration of the various sections of the Federal Social Security Act adopted by the Texas Legislature. The Board will consist of nine members, one of whom shall be a representative of labor.

EDITORIAL

LABOR ACT WINS ANOTHER COURT DECISION

The second decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Judicial Circuit upholding the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Act restates in plain language the principle which actuated the court in its first decision made a number of months ago.

Sitting at New Orleans, the Appeals Court reversed the decision of Federal Judge Charles A. Boynton of El Paso, Texas, holding the Act unconstitutional and permanently enjoining the National Labor Relations Board from enforcing it against the El Paso Electric Company. Judge Boynton granted the injunction after a lengthy hearing on charges of unfair labor practices in violation of the Labor Act brought against the company by Edwin S. Elliott of Fort Worth, Texas, regional director of the Labor Board.

In the opinion written by Circuit Judge Edwin R. Holmes sustaining the constitutional power of Congress to pass the Act, it was stated that the Appeals Court was controlled by its decision last June in the case of the Jones & Laughlin Company of Arkansas versus the National Labor Relations Board. "In that case," the opinion said, "we held that the National Labor Relations Act, which created the board and authorized its agents to be restrained, was not wholly and palpably unconstitutional."

In the Arkansas Lumber Company case the Appeals Court affirmed the decision of a lower court denying the application for an injunction to restrain the Labor Board from investigating complaints of unfair labor practices affecting interstate commerce in the company's relations with its employes.

Quoting from a former opinion, Judge Holmes said:

"In many operations besides railroad transportation, labor troubles can, and Congress has found in fact results of the sort that they do, impede and hinder directly interstate commerce actually in progress."

Commenting on the injunction decision of Judge Boynton, the Appeals Court's opinion declared:

"We think the court erred, because a legislative act should not be declared void unless its constitutionality appears beyond every reasonable doubt and such a ruling is necessary to the disposition of the case."

Judge Holmes pointed out that the Labor Relations Act gives any person aggrieved by a final order of the Labor Board the right to appeal to a United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the modification or setting aside of the order, and that the Act also provides for full, fair and complete remedy at law in ordinary actions for damages and injunction.

The opinion declared that there was nothing in the El Paso case to warranted extraordinary equitable relief by injunction.

The opinion of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit is a constructive interpretation of the broad authority conferred upon Congress by the Constitution to enact legislation requiring employers to observe the right of their employes to organize and bargain collectively upon ordinary union activities without employer interference. If there were any doubt in the minds of the Supreme Judges there would be much less demand for amendments to the Constitution conferring upon Congress the power to enact social legislation which a liberal interpretation of the Constitution makes evident is already included in the legislative authority awarded the people's elected representatives by the fundamental law.

AUGUSTA UNIONS SUPPORT CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Central Labor Union of Augusta, Ga., sent a letter to each of the representatives from that area in the State Legislature urging them to take the lead in securing the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Newspaper Guild to Establish the Guild Shop

Word came to you and to the Newspaper Guild full and complete assurance of the support of the American Federation of Labor in all efforts you may put forth to require the management of the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance to agree to your reasonable demand.

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Low Wages Injure Textile Industry

World Conference in Washington Will Seek to End Threat to Labor Standards by Inaugurating International Action Reducing Hours and Improving Work Conditions.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Long hours of labor and low wages imposed upon textile workers in all textile producing countries are a menace to steady employment and to remedy this condition by concerted international action will be the major subjects before the World Conference of textile producing countries, it was announced for the first week in April by the International Labor Office at the invitation of President Roosevelt.

Harold L. Butler, director of the I. L. O., said that the long hours and wages the conference would consider submitting questions like child labor, paid vacations and tariffs.

The work of the conference will be implemented by an important report reviewing the world textile situation published by the International Labor Office at Geneva.

Labor Standards Threatened

A survey of the report, made public here by the Washington office of the I. L. O., emphasizes tragically how textile wages and the long work week throughout the world and points out that the social influence of the race for markets as a contributing element to these industrial standards.

Faced with these undisputed facts the report stresses the need for a common program of international organization and national action to promote the progressive improvement of the industry in the different countries, as well as to assure living standards for the workers.

"The struggle for textile markets," says the report, "has become accentuated to such an extent as to threaten labor standards, social peace and world economic relations in general."

Larger Buying Power Necessary

It points out that one of the remedies proposed for the ills of the industry is the curtailment of productive capacity. It holds, however, that this is a so-called "distressed arena", which may be regarded as having excess capacity in the major problem of the industry is the question of "over production".

In opposition to the over production theory the report finds that "the consumption of textile goods in many countries is still much below what may be regarded as a reasonable standard, and below what fairly paid workers in the same countries are entitled to think of consuming", adding:

"Such wage-level evidence shows that as incomes of workers increase their purchases of textile goods for personal use will increase also. In short, the potential demand for textiles, people is today, as in the past, considerable."

Wages Are Below Average

Turning to wage rates and hours the report says:

"When the wage situation in the textile industry is compared with that in other industries, textile workers appear to be relatively low paid. In all countries, and below what fairly paid workers in the same countries are entitled to think of consuming", adding:

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"Such wage-level evidence shows that as incomes of workers increase their purchases of textile goods for personal use will increase also. In short, the potential demand for textiles, people is today, as in the past, considerable."

"Hourly and weekly wages in the textile industry in most countries fall below the level of living necessary as a whole.

"This is due to some extent to the large proportion of women and young persons employed in textiles, but not entirely, as wages for men and for women textile workers separately show a relatively low standard of wages."

Long Maximum Hours

In regard to hours of work in textiles, the report shows that the prevailing questions in the regulation hours applied in the various countries tend to affect the maximum limits of working hours in those countries.

The major textile countries fall into three groups. First, those where regulation prevails. Next, in the orient (China, India, and Japan). Secondly, those with a 48-hour week (Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Germany, Great Britain, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Roumania, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland), and thirdly those countries with more than a week (Australia, France, Italy, New Zealand, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

Actual hours worked indicate the same. Although comparisons with the countries in the Far East in the third group with the largest working hours (about 57½ to 11½), a middle group containing countries like Austria, three-fifths working hours and the largest group with a work week of about 40½ hours including the United States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Poland.

The report adds: "The statutory hours of work differ from country to country, but the fact that remains is the question of hours as a factor in international competition. Representations, in order that a special policy may be elaborated with full understanding of the facts.

"It is for those who are responsible for the welfare of the textile industry," the report declares, "to study those facts and to solve the difficult problems that confront the industry."

Braid Company Lengthens Hours Without Increasing Weekly Pay

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Low wages and long hours imposed upon the employes of the Hildale Novelty Braid Manufacturing Company of Rhode Greenwich, Rhode Island, caused the company to declare a 10% wage cut, which was reported to be 100 per cent effective, all of the 132 employes leaving the plant.

Representatives of the strikers claimed that because of an alleged decrease in business the company increased hours from 40 to 48 weekly, leading the workers to believe that the old schedule would be restored when business improved. But the company then lengthened hours and kept wages at $13 per week.

Trial of Tampa Floggers For Murder Of Shoemaker Is Scheduled for April 16

Five Former Policemen and Three Alleged Members of a Ku Klux Klan Union Wrecking Crew Will Face Jury Sixteen Months After Commission of Crime — Green Demanded Probe Which Led to Indictment.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

According to information from Tampa, Fla., the trial of eight alleged participants in the "flogging" of three men on November 30, 1935, in which Joseph A. Shoemaker was kidnaped, flogged, tarred and feathered and beaten so mercilessly that he died as a result of the injuries, is scheduled to begin April 16, more than sixteen months after the commission of the crime. The other two victims were Robert E. Poulnot and Henry J. Rogers, a retired rural physician.

The three men were taken by Tampa police without warrants from a meeting of "Modern Democrats" at a private home in Tampa and after being questioned at police headquarters about alleged "Communistic activities" were handed over by the police to a gang of floggers.

Given Jail Terms for Kidnapping

Through the efforts of President Green, of the American Federation of Labor, other interested organizations and prominent individuals, the public was deeply aroused and an investigation demanded by Mr. Green led eventually to the indictment of a number of men, including high police officials and several alleged Klansmen.

The first trial of five former Tampa policemen last Spring resulted in their conviction of having abducted Poulnot. They were sentenced to four years in the penitentiary by a Polk County jury, but are still at liberty pending the outcome of an appeal to the State Supreme Court.

These five men who will face the charge of second degree murder in connection with the death of Shoemaker are Sam E. Crosby, John Ingram, F. W. Steiner, C. W. Catelisk and Sergt. C. A. Brown.

"Union Wreckers" Assisted Floggers

Three other men accused of assisting in the kidnaping and flogging are Dewey Mills, a service station attendant; Arth Gillian, Ed Spivey and James Dean, all of Orlando, Fla., are also accused of assisting in the murder. They are reputed to have been associated with the Ku Klux Klan in Orlando and to have served on a "wrecking crew" organized to forcibly break the organization of labor unions in the citrus groves in the Tampa and Orlando areas.

A second degree murder charge against Robert Chappell, former policeman, who is alleged to have driven the car which carried the gang, is also charged with being an accessory before the fact against former Chief of Police Robert E. Pittsworth of Tampa. Both Chappell and Pittsworth have been released under bond.

It is reported from Tampa that the first Orchestrated trial probably will be held at Bartow, since all of the defendants originally obtained a change of venue from Hillsboro County after alleging the existence of conditions prejudicial to a fair trial.

A. F. of L. Urged Prompt Prosecution

Prompt and vigorous prosecution of these 11 men was demanded by Mr. Green in a resolution unanimously adopted by the 1936 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Tampa, Fla. After protesting against the action of the Florida authorities in having brought to trial only five of the eleven men indicted in connection with the kidnaping, flogging, tarring and feathering of Shoemaker, Poulnot and Rogers, the resolution adopted by the convention concluded:

"Whereas, The American Federation of Labor and all progressive and democratic citizens of Florida are shocked by this violation of civil rights as well as serious and vital challenge against the liberties of a freedom loving people and the proper handling of this matter will tend to serve notice on the elements in the Black Legion and other fascist-minded organizations that such terrorist methods will not be tolerated by organized labor; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor go on record as urging prompt and vigorous prosecution of the balance of these cases to the end that full justice may be obtained and that such action shall serve as a warning to all terrorist groups that are attempting our fundamental American liberties."

NORTH CAROLINA TEXTILE WORKERS WIN PAY BOOST

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Three employing plants, employing about 2,500 of the cotton plants of the Cone mills in Greensboro, N. C., have been notified that they will receive a substantial increase in wages. The plants are the Proximity Cotton Mills the Proximity mills, the Proximity Print Works and the Revolution cotton mills.

The extent of the wage increase is not known, as a general check-up of the payrolls will be necessary in order to arrive at what the management regards as an equitable schedule.

Observers interpreted the pay boost announced as an attempt by the company to quiet evident dissatisfaction among the employees because of low wage rates.

Announcement has also been made of an adjustment in wages at the Cannon textile mills in Kannapolis, N. C. The 14,000 employes of this company in the Carolinas and Georgia probably think that April 1st is inappropriately named. The Cannon mills are the largest manufacturers of towels in the world.

STRENGTH OF SEAMEN'S UNION IS EMPHASIZED

Scharrenberg Tells Shipowners It Is Here to Stay—Says Success of Merchant Marine is Based on Peaceful Industrial Relations.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York.—Let N. Y. shipowners make as well make up their minds that the International Seamen's Union of America is here to stay and that it is up to them to decide whether it shall be under conservative or communistic management. This was the plainly worded declaration made by Paul Scharrenberg, legislative representative of the union in Washington, in an address before the Propeller Club at a luncheon meeting in the Downtown Athletic Club here.

Referring to his own experience, Mr. Scharrenberg said he had been an A. F. of L. man for the three skyward years New York 40 years ago. He explained that in the early days shipowners were in doubt as to whether the Seamen's Union was permanently established. Continual upsets resulted between shipowners and workers.

Strike of 1921

From 1907 until 1921 there were satisfactory contractual relations between the union and the shipowners on the Pacific Coast. But in 1921 the Seamen's Union had a big fight resulting from conditions in the World War. During the war seamen's wages had been increased from $40 to $95 a month, following the war the shipowners attempted to reduce their expenses, but the seamen refused to consider wage cuts. A national strike tied up the American tonnage at that time was settled by the Government and the seamen were defeated with the result that wages came down to $125 or less.

Trouble Caused by Communists

In recent years, Mr. Scharrenberg declared, many young men have enrolled in the Seamen's Union without any conception of their responsibilities. This was illustrated in the Pacific Coast strike led by Harry Bridges and the Atlantic Coast strike, which was a struggle between communistic elements and the conservative section of the Seamen's Union.

He gave certain details about a school for Communists operated by Communists, formerly located at 149 Broadway and now at Bronx, N. Y., and of a guide for Communist workers on the waterfront, which urged the men not to leave any ship without permission from their party leaders, who were to do their guiding in everything.

Tolerance Is Urged

Mr. Scharrenberg urged that shipowners to be tolerant with the union. "If we are going to have an American merchant marine as a going concern," he added, "we must have peaceful relations between shipowners and seamen. When and if the shipowners make up their minds that the Seamen's Union is here to stay, then we are going to get somewhere. The shipowners must deal but with men affiliated with the American Federation of Labor."

Seamen's Union Dispute

Concerning the trouble over the seamen's continuous discharge book, Mr. Scharrenberg said:

"This book was recommended in 1927 by the National Research Bureau after various groups of steamship lines had books of their own, in which the conduct of men during the voyage was noted, but in the new book there is no mention of the word. Communists, however, aided the propaganda against the new book and Congress finally decided to compromise in favor of a book without any entries at all." He declared "there was no rhyme or reason in the objections to the new book."

P. E. ARMSTRONG DIES IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Was Newspaper Guild Member Whose Discharge by Post-Intelligencer Figured in Strike Which Caused That Paper to Suspend Publication.

Seattle, Wash. (AFLNS). — Philip Everhardt Armstrong, prominent member of the Seattle chapter of the American Newspaper Guild, died suddenly here of a heart attack, at the age of forty-two.

He died as he would have wished, in the midst of a fight, for his case—reinstatement on the staff of the Post, Seattle daily which he served for the Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington following appeal by the newspaper guild against the decision of the National Labor Relations Board.

Friends and co-workers in the labor movement looked deeper than the medical diagnosis of the cause of Armstrong's passing, however, for they remembered the hectic days and restless nights of the council during and after the strike settlement, that helped guide Seattle through those multiple dangers. And they remembered the energy, the vitality, the nervous force with which Armstrong threw himself forward to the fore to help solve the daily crises of the strike.

"Army" lived to see the battle he fought to won—won for the newsmen of a nation.

But the battle for himself personally Seattle the Civic Union Mills the Proximity mills, the Proximity Print Works and the Revolution cotton mills.

The extent of the wage increase is not known, as a general check-up of the payrolls will be necessary in order to arrive at what the management regards as an equitable schedule.

Observers interpreted the pay boost announced as an attempt by the company to quiet evident dissatisfaction among the employees because of low wage rates.

Announcement has also been made of an adjustment in wages at the Cannon textile mills in Kannapolis, N. C. The 14,000 employes of this company in the Carolinas and Georgia probably think that April 1st is inappropriately named. The Cannon mills are the largest manufacturers of towels in the world.

Parliament in Philadelphia, Philip Everhardt Armstrong graduated from the University of Maryland and followed graduation with studies in Munich and Paris. He returned to America to work on the Philadelphia Press and Philadelphia Public Ledger, then served in the army during the war, attaining the rank of major. Coming to Camp Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash., after the war, Armstrong joined the Post-Intelligencer staff, on which he was employed until he dismissed in the fall of 1936.

First married in wartime, Armstrong married a second time in Seattle in 1932. He is survived by his wife, Noreen, and two children by his first marriage.